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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/08205 (22) International Filing Date: 28 March 2000 (28.03.00) (30) Priority Data: 60/126,926 29 March 1999 (29.03.99) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NEUROGEN CORPORATION [US/US]; 35 Northeast Industrial Road, Branford, CT 06405 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): YUAN, Jun [US/US]; 40 Spruce Hill Drive, Guilford, CT 06437 (US). MAYNARD, George, D. [US/US]; 27 Glenwood Road, Clinton, CT 06413 (US). HUTCHISON, Alan [US/US]; 29 Kimberly Lane, Madison, CT 06437 (US). RACHWAL, Stanislaw [PL/US]; 133 Montoya Drive, Brandford, CT 06405 (US). (74) Agent: SARUSSI, Steven, J.; McDonnell Boehnen Hulber & Berghoff, Suite 3200, 300 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606 (US).		(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: 4-SUBSTITUTED QUINOLINE DERIVATIVES AS NK-3 AND/OR GABA(A) RECEPTOR LIGANDS <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div data-bbox="537 1136 727 1329"> </div> <div data-bbox="927 1203 967 1230" style="margin-left: 20px;"> (1) </div> </div>		
(57) Abstract <p>The invention relates to certain novel compounds of general Formula (I) where R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, X, Y₁, and Y₂ are defined herein. These compounds bind with high affinity to NK-3 receptors and/or GABA_A receptors. Also provided are pharmaceutical compositions comprising them, and methods of treating patients suffering from certain central nervous system and peripheral diseases or disorders with these pharmaceutical compositions. This invention also relates to the use of such compounds in combination with one or more other CNS agents to potentiate the effects of the other CNS agents. The compounds of this invention are also useful as probes for the localization of NK-3 receptors and GABA_A receptors.</p>		

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4-SUBSTITUTED QUINOLINE DERIVATIVES AS NK-3 AND/OR GABA(A) RECEPTOR LIGANDS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION5 Field Of The Invention

This invention relates to quinoline derivatives, pharmaceutical compositions comprising them, and the use of such compounds in the treatment of certain central nervous system and peripheral diseases or disorders. This invention also relates
10 to the use of such compounds in combination with one or more other CNS agents to potentiate the effects of the other CNS agents. The compounds of this invention are also useful as probes for the localization of cell surface receptors.

15 Description of the Related Art

The tachykinins represent a family of structurally related peptides originally isolated based upon their smooth muscle contractile and sialogogic activity. These mammalian peptides include substance P (SP), neurokinin A (NKA) and neurokinin β
20 (NKB). Tachykinins are synthesized in the central nervous system (CNS), as well as in peripheral tissues, where they exert a variety of biological activities. Substance P can be produced from three different mRNAs (α -, β - and γ -preprotachykinin mRNAs) that arise from a single gene as a result of alternative RNA
25 splicing, whereas NKA can be generated from either the β - or the γ -preprotachykinin mRNA through posttranslationally processed precursor polypeptides. These precursors can also be differentially processed so that amino terminally extended forms of NKA (known as neuropeptide K and neuropeptide γ) are produced.
30 NKB is produced from a separate mRNA arising from a second gene known as preprotachykinin B.

Three receptors for the tachykinin peptides have been molecularly characterized and are referred to as neurokinin-1 (NK-1), neurokinin-2 (NK-2) and neurokinin-3 (NK-3) receptors.

The NK-1 receptor has a natural agonist potency profile of SP>NKA>NKB. The NK-2 receptor agonist potency profile is NKA>NKB>SP, and the NK-3 receptor agonist potency profile is NKB>NKA>SP. These receptors mediate the variety of tachykinin-stimulated biological effects that generally include 1) modulation of smooth muscle contractile activity, 2) transmission of (generally) excitatory neuronal signals in the CNS and periphery (e.g. pain signals), 3) modulation of immune and inflammatory responses, 4) induction of hypotensive effects via dilation of the peripheral vasculature, and 5) stimulation of endocrine and exocrine gland secretions. These receptors transduce intracellular signals via the activation of pertussis toxin-insensitive ($G_{aq/11}$) G proteins, resulting in the generation of the intracellular second messengers inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphorylate and diacylglycerol. NK-1 receptors are expressed in a wide variety of peripheral tissues and in the CNS. NK-2 receptors are expressed primarily in the periphery, while NK-3 receptors are primarily (but not exclusively) expressed in the CNS. Recent work confirms the presence of NK-3 receptor binding sites in the human brain.

Studies measuring the localization of NKB and NK-3 receptor mRNAs and proteins, along with studies performed using peptide agonists and non-peptide NK-3 receptor antagonists, provide a rationale for using NK-3 receptor antagonists in treating a variety of disorders in both the CNS and the periphery. In the CNS, activation of NK-3 receptors has been shown to modulate dopamine and serotonin release, indicating therapeutic utility in the treatment of a variety of disorders including anxiety, depression, schizophrenia and obesity. Further, studies in primate brain detect the presence of NK-3 mRNA in a variety of regions relevant to these disorders. With regard to obesity, it has also been shown that NK-3 receptors are located on MCH-containing neurons in the rat lateral hypothalamus and zona incerta. In the periphery, administration of NKB into the

airways is known to induce mucus secretion and bronchoconstriction, indicating therapeutic utility for NK-3 receptor antagonists in the treatment of patients suffering from airway diseases such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Localization of NK-3 receptors in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and the bladder indicates therapeutic utility for NK-3 receptor antagonists in the treatment of GI and bladder disorders including inflammatory bowel disease and urinary incontinence.

Both peptide and nonpeptide antagonists have been developed for each of the tachykinin receptors. The first generation of peptide antagonists for the tachykinin receptors had problems with low potency, partial agonism, poor metabolic stability and toxicity, whereas the current generation of non-peptide antagonists display more drug-like properties. Unfortunately, previous non-peptide NK-3 receptor antagonists suffer from a number of problems such as species selectivity (which limits the potential to evaluate these compounds in many appropriate disease models). New non-peptide NK-3 receptor antagonists are therefore being sought, both as therapeutic agents and as tools to further investigate the anatomical and ultrastructural distribution of NK-3 receptors, as well as the physiologic and pathophysiologic consequences of NK-3 receptor activation.

The GABA_A receptor superfamily represents one of the classes of receptors through which the major inhibitory neurotransmitter, γ -aminobutyric acid, or GABA, acts. Widely, although unequally, distributed through the mammalian brain, GABA mediates many of its actions through a complex of proteins called the GABA_A receptor, which causes alteration in chloride conductance and membrane polarization.

A number of cDNAs for GABA_A receptor subunits have been characterized. To date at least 6 α , 3 β , 3 γ , 1 ϵ , 1 δ and 2 ρ subunits have been identified. It is generally accepted that

native GABA_A receptors are typically composed of 2 α , 2 β , and 1 γ subunits (Pritchett & Seeburg *Science* 1989; 245:1389-1392 and Knight et. al., *Recept. Channels* 1998; 6:1-18). Evidence such as message distribution, genome localization and biochemical study results suggest that the major naturally occurring receptor combinations are $\alpha_1\beta_2\gamma_2$, $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$, $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$, and $\alpha_5\beta_3\gamma_2$ (Mohler et. al. *Neuroch. Res.* 1995; 20(5): 631 - 636).

Benzodiazepines exert their pharmacological actions by interacting with the benzodiazepine binding sites associated with the GABA_A receptor. In addition to the benzodiazepine site, the GABA_A receptor contains sites of interaction for several other classes of drugs. These include a steroid binding site, a picrotoxin site, and the barbiturate site. The benzodiazepine site of the GABA_A receptor is a distinct site on the receptor complex that does not overlap with the site of interaction for GABA or for other classes of drugs that bind to the receptor (see, e.g., Cooper, et al., *The Biochemical Basis of Neuropharmacology*, 6th ed., 1991, pp. 145-148, Oxford University Press, New York). Early electrophysiological studies indicated that a major action of the benzodiazepines was enhancement of GABAergic inhibition. Compounds that selectively bind to the benzodiazepine site and enhance the ability of GABA to open GABA_A receptor channels are agonists of GABA receptors. Other compounds that interact with the same site but negatively modulate the action of GABA are called inverse agonists. Compounds belonging to a third class bind selectively to the benzodiazepine site and yet have little or no effect on GABA activity, but can block the action of GABA_A receptor agonists or inverse agonists that act at this site. These compounds are referred to as antagonists.

The important allosteric modulatory effects of drugs acting at the benzodiazepine site were recognized early and the distribution of activities at different receptor subtypes has been an area of intense pharmacological discovery. Agonists

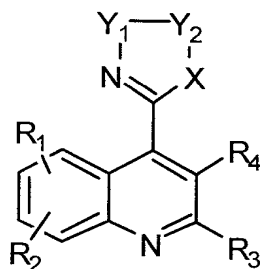
that act at the benzodiazepine site are known to exhibit anxiolytic, sedative, and hypnotic effects, while compounds that act as inverse agonists at this site elicit anxiogenic, cognition enhancing, and proconvulsant effects. While
5 benzodiazepines have a long history of pharmaceutical use as anxiolytics, these compounds often exhibit a number of unwanted side effects. These may include cognitive impairment, sedation, ataxia, potentiation of ethanol effects, and a tendency for tolerance and drug dependence.

10 GABA_A selective ligands may also act to potentiate the effects of certain other CNS active compounds. For example, there is evidence that selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) may show greater antidepressant activity when used in combination with GABA_A selective ligands than when used alone.
15

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Disclosed are compounds, particularly quinoline derivatives
20 that bind to cell surface receptors. Preferred compounds of the invention bind to neurokinin and/or GABA receptors, in particular these compounds possess affinity for NK-3 receptors and/or GABA_A receptors. These compounds are therefore considered to be of potential use in the treatment of a broad array of
25 diseases or disorders in patients which are characterized by modulation of NK-3 and/or GABA_A receptors.

This invention provides compounds of general Formula I:



Formula I

5 or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or pharmaceutically acceptable solvates thereof,
 wherein in R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, X, Y₁ and Y₂ are hereinafter defined.

10 Preferred compounds of this invention are ligands for neurokinin receptors and GABA receptors, especially NK-3 receptors and GABA_A receptors, and are useful in the treatment of a wide range of diseases or disorders including, but not limited to depression, anxiety, sleep disorders, cognitive disorders, low alertness, psychosis, obesity, pain, Parkinson's disease,
 15 Alzheimer's disease, neurodegenerative diseases, movement disorders, Down's syndrome, benzodiazepine overdoses, respiratory diseases, inflammatory diseases, neuropathy, immune disorders, migraine, biliary dysfunction, and dermatitis.

The invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions
 20 comprising compounds of Formula I. The invention further comprises a method of treating a patient suffering from certain central nervous system and peripheral diseases or disorders with effective concentration of a compound of the invention. Treatment of humans, domesticated companion animals (pets) or
 25 livestock animals suffering such conditions with an effective amount of a compound of the invention is contemplated by the invention.

Packaged pharmaceutical compositions including instructions for use of the composition are also included.

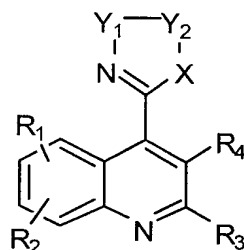
In a separate aspect, the invention provides a method of potentiating the actions of other CNS active compounds. This method comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of the invention with another CNS active compound.

The invention furthermore provides methods of using compounds of this invention as positive controls in assays for receptor activity and using appropriately labeled compounds of the invention as probes for the localization of receptors, particularly NK-3 and/or GABA_A receptors, in tissue sections.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to quinoline derivatives, pharmaceutical compositions comprising them, and the use of such compounds in the treatment of certain central nervous system and peripheral diseases or disorders.

Accordingly, a broad embodiment of the invention is directed to compounds of Formula I:



Formula I

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or pharmaceutically acceptable solvates thereof, wherein:

R₁ is selected from:

hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, -O(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -NO₂,
-CN, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -SO₂N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)(C₁₋₆ alkyl),
-7-

amino, $-\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})\text{CO}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})\text{CO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{NHSO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})\text{SO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NHCO}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{CONHSO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{CON}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{CO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{S}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{SO}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, or $-\text{SO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$,

wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl may be straight, branched or cyclic, may contain one or two double or triple bonds, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from: hydroxy, oxo, fluoro, amino, C_{1-3} alkoxy;

R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the groups consisting of:

(1) C_{1-8} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl is be straight, branched or cyclic, may contain one or two double or triple bonds, and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more of the substituents selected from:

(i) hydroxy,

(ii) oxo,

(iii) fluoro,

(iv) amino,

(v) Ar_1 , wherein Ar_1 is independently selected at each occurrence from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, imidazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, and benzopyrazolyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from:

hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-\text{O}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, amino, $-\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$,

alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})CO(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-N(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})CO_2(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-NHSO_2(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-N(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})SO_2(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-SO_2NHCO(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-CONHSO_2(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-CON(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-CO_2(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-S(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-SO(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, or $-SO_2(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, wherein $C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl}$, is defined as above,

(vi) $-NR_5R_6$, wherein R_5 and R_6 are independently selected at each occurrence from:

(a) hydrogen,

(b) $C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl}$, wherein $C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl}$ is as defined above,

(c) $-(CH_2)_n-Ar_1$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and Ar_1 is as defined above,

or the groups R_5 and R_6 may be joined together to form a 4- to 8-membered ring of which the 4- to 8- membered ring may contain one or two double bonds, or one or two oxo, or one or two O, S or $N-R_7$ wherein R_7 is independently selected at each occurrence from hydrogen, $C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl}$, $-(CH_2)_n-Ar_1$, wherein $C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl}$, n and Ar_1 are defined as above,

(vii) $-OR_5$, wherein R_5 is as defined above,

(viii) $-CONR_5R_6$ wherein R_5 and R_6 are as defined above,

(ix) $-CO_2R_5$, wherein said R_5 is as defined above;

(2) Ar_2 , wherein Ar_2 is independently selected at each occurrence from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, imidazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, or benzopyrazolyl, and unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from:

hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₈ alkyl, -O(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -
 NO₂, -CN, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO₂N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈
 alkyl), amino, -NH(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈
 5 alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)CO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)CO₂(C₁₋₈
 alkyl), -NHSO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)SO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -
 SO₂NHCO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CONHSO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CON(C₁₋₈
 alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -S(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -
 SO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), or -SO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), wherein said C₁₋₈
 10 alkyl is as defined above;

(3) -NR₈R₉, wherein R₈ and R₉ are independently selected at
 each occurrence from:

- 15 (a) hydrogen,
 (b) Ar₂, wherein Ar₂ is as defined above;
 (c) C₁₋₈ alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₈ alkyl is as defined
 above;

20 or the groups R₈ and R₉ may be joined together to form a
 4- to 8-membered ring of which the 4- to 8- membered ring
 may contain one or more double bonds; one or more oxo;
 one or more O, S(O)_n, N-R₇ wherein n and R₇ are as
 defined above; one or more groups consisting of hydroxy,
 25 halogen, amino, C₁₋₈ alkyl, -O(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -NO₂, -CN, -
 SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO₂N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl),
 amino, -NH(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈
 alkyl)CO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)CO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -
 NHSO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)SO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO₂NHCO(C₁₋₈
 30 alkyl), -CONHSO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CON(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl),
 -CO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -S(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), or -
 SO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), wherein said C₁₋₈ alkyl is as defined
 above;

(4) $-OR_8$, wherein R_8 is as defined above;

R_4 is selected from:

5 hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-8} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$,
 $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-SO_2NH(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-SO_2N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl) (C_{1-8}
 alkyl), amino, $-NH(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl) (C_{1-8} alkyl),
 $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl) $CO(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl) $CO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl) , -
 $NHSO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl) $SO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-SO_2NHCO(C_{1-8}$
 10 alkyl), $-CONHSO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-8}$ alkyl) (C_{1-8} alkyl), -
 $CO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-S(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-SO(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-SO_2(C_{1-8}$
 alkyl), or Ar_2 wherein Ar_2 and said C_{1-8} alkyl are as defined
 above;

15 X is NH, O or $N-R_{10}$, wherein R_{10} is C_{1-8} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-8}
 alkyl is defined as above;

Y_1 is $-CR_{11}R_{12}-$, $-CR_{11}R_{12}(CH_2)_p-$, $-(CH_2)_pCR_{11}R_{12}-$, or $-(CH_2)_pCO-$; where
 p is 0, 1, or 2; and R_{11} and R_{12} are independently selected at
 20 each occurrence from:

(1) hydrogen,
 (2) Ar_2 , wherein Ar_2 is as defined above;
 (3) C_{1-8} alkyl wherein C_{1-8} alkyl is as defined above;
 (4) $-CONR_8R_9$ wherein R_8 and R_9 are as defined above,
 25 (5) $-CO_2R_8$, wherein said R_8 is as defined above;
 and the groups R_{11} and R_{12} may be joined together to form a
 monocyclic, bicyclic, or tricyclic ring;

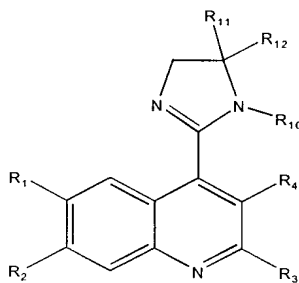
Y_2 is $-CR_{11}R_{12}-$ or $-CO-$ with the proviso that Y_2 is not $-CO-$ when
 30 Y_1 is $-(CH_2)_pCO-$, wherein p, R_{11} and R_{12} are as defined above ;
 and

when X is $N-R_{10}$, the groups R_{10} and R_{11} may be joined to form a
 5- to 8-membered ring which may contain one or more double

bonds; one or more oxo; one or more O, S(O)_n, N-R₇ wherein n and R₇ are as defined above; one or more groups consisting of hydroxy, halogen, amino, C₁₋₈ alkyl, -O(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -NO₂, -CN, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO₂N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), amino, -NH(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)CO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)CO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -NHSO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)SO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO₂NHCO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CONHSO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CON(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -S(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), or -SO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl) wherein said C₁₋₈ alkyl is as defined above.

Preferred compounds include compounds of Formula I, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein X is NH or N-R₁₀, where R₁₀ is as defined as for Formula I.

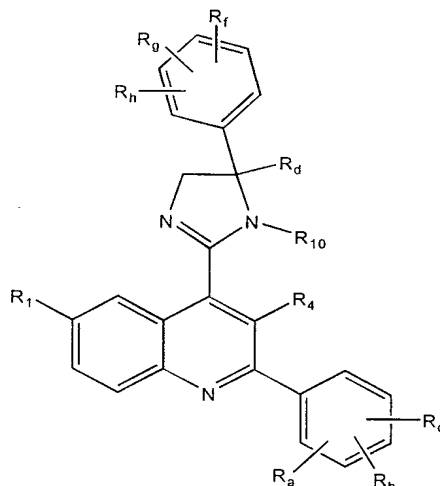
Other preferred compounds of general Formula I include compounds of Formula IA



Formula IA

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein: R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₁₀, R₁₁, and R₁₂ are as defined as for Formula I.

More preferred compounds of general Formula I include compounds of Formula IB



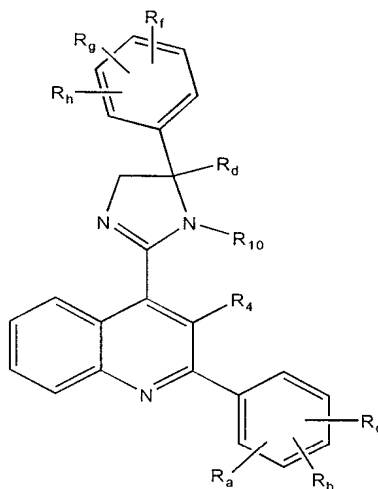
Formula IB

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein: R_1 and R_4 are as defined in Formula I;

- 5 R_a , R_b , and R_c and R_f , R_g , and R_h independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl);
- 10 R_d is hydrogen, straight or branched chain alkyl, or straight or branched chain alkoxy; and
- R_{10} is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

Additional preferred compounds of general Formula I are

15 compounds of Formula IC



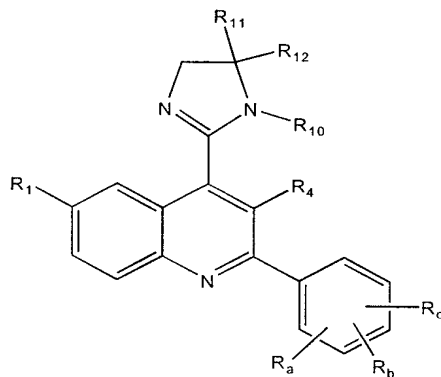
Formula IC

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof,
wherein:

R_1 and R_4 are as defined in Formula I;

- 5 R_a , R_b , and R_c and R_f , R_g , and R_h independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl);
- 10 R_d is hydrogen or straight or branched chain alkyl or straight or branched chain alkoxy;
- R_4 is as defined in Formula I and
- R_{10} is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

- 15 Still other preferred compounds of general Formula I include compounds of Formula ID



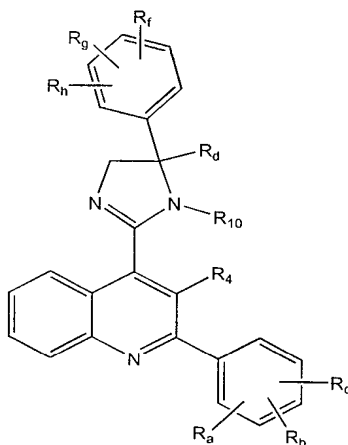
Formula ID

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof,
wherein:

- 20 R_a , R_b , and R_c independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), wherein C_{1-6} alkyl is as defined above;
- 25 R_4 is as defined for Formula I;
- R_{10} is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are joined together to form a monocyclic, bicyclic, or tricyclic ring.

Yet other preferred compounds of general Formula I include
5 compounds of Formula IE



Formula IE

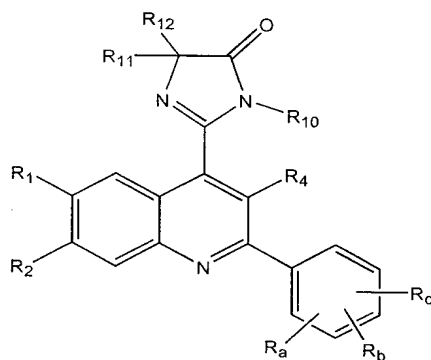
and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein:

10 R_a , R_b , and R_c and R_f , R_g , and R_h independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl);

15 R_4 is as defined for Formula I; and

R_d and R_{10} together form an alkylene group of from 3-5 carbon atoms each of which is optionally substituted with methyl or ethyl.

20 Another class of preferred compounds of general Formula I includes compounds of Formula IF



Formula IF

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein:

- 5 R_a , R_b , and R_c independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), wherein C_{1-6} alkyl is as defined
- 10 above;

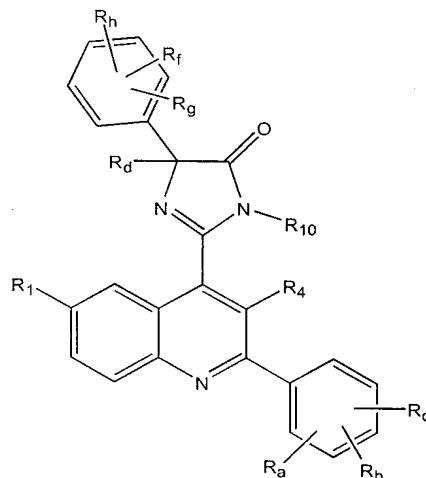
R_1 , R_2 , and R_4 are as defined in Claim 1;

R_{10} is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are independently from:

- (1) hydrogen,
- 15 (2) Ar_2 ,
- (3) C_{1-8} alkyl,
- (4) $-CONR_8R_9$ wherein R_8 and R_9 are as defined in Claim 1, and
- (5) $-CO_2R_8$, wherein said R_8 is as defined in Claim 1.

20 Particularly preferred compounds of Formula IF are compounds of Formula IG



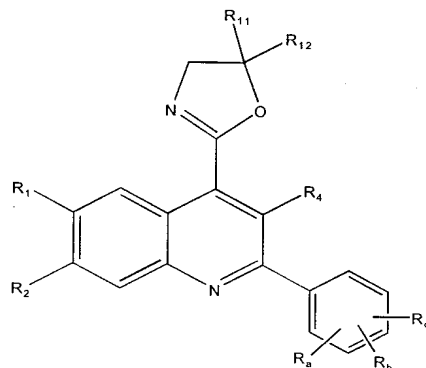
Formula IG

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein:

- 5 R_a , R_b , and R_c and R_f , R_g , and R_h independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl);
- 10 R_d is hydrogen or straight or branched chain alkyl or straight or branched chain alkoxy;
- R_1 and R_4 are as defined for Formula I; and
- R_{10} is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

- 15 Also, preferred compounds of the invention include compounds of general Formula IA wherein X is oxygen. These compounds will be referred to as compounds of Formula IH.

- More preferred compounds of Formula IH are compounds of
- 20 Formula Ii

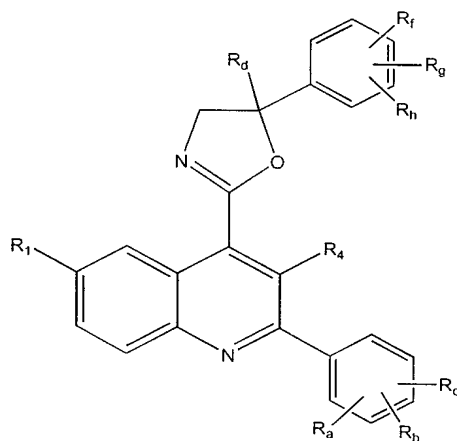


Formula II

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein:

- 5 R_1 , R_2 , R_4 , R_{11} , and R_{12} are as defined for Formula I; and
 R_a , R_b , and R_c independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl),
 10 $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl).

Particularly preferred compounds of Formula II are compounds of Formula IJ



Formula IJ

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein:

R_1 and R_4 are as defined for Formula I;

R_a , R_b , and R_c and R_f , R_g , and R_h independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl); and

R_d is hydrogen or straight or branched chain alkyl or straight or branched chain alkoxy.

In certain instances, compounds of the present invention have asymmetric centers and this invention includes all of the optical isomers and mixtures thereof.

In addition compounds with carbon-carbon double bonds may occur in Z- and E- forms with all isomeric forms of the compounds being included in the present invention.

When any variable (e.g. alkyl, Ar_1 , Ar_2 , R_5 , R_6 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{11} , R_{12} , etc.) occurs more than one time in Formula I, its definition on each occurrence is independent of its definition at every other occurrence.

As used herein, the term "alkyl" includes straight or branched chain alkyl groups and cycloalkyl groups that also may contain double or triple bonds. Examples of "alkyl" include methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, iso-, sec- and tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, 3-ethylbutyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, norbornyl, and the like. Where the number of carbon atoms is designed at the alkyl group includes that number of carbon atoms. When reference is made herein to C_{1-6} alkyl which it may contain one or two double or triple bond it is understood that at least two carbons are present in the alkyl for one double or triple bond, and at least four carbons for two double or triple bonds.

The term "alkoxy" represents an alkyl group of indicated number of carbon atoms attached through an oxygen bridge, such as methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy and isopropoxy.

By the term "halogen" is meant fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine.

The term "monocyclic" includes, but is not limited to cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or cycloheptyl; "bicyclic" includes, but is not limited to indanyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, chromanyl benzo[a][7]annulenyl, bicyclo[4.4.0]decanyl, bicyclo[4,3.0]nonanyl, bicyclo[3.3.0] octanyl; "tricyclic" includes, but is not limited to dibenzoannulenyl, dibenzoxepanyl, dibenzothiepanyl.

As used herein, the terms "patients" refers to humans as well as other mammals including pets such as dogs and cats and livestock such as cattle and sheep.

This invention also includes methods for using compounds of Formula I to treat diseases or disorders in patients in which mediation by NK-3 receptors and/or GABA_A receptors is of importance.

Preferred compounds of this invention are ligands for neurokinin and GABA receptors, in particular NK-3 receptors and/or GABA_A receptors, and are useful in the treatment of a wide range of diseases or disorders of the central nervous system (CNS) and periphery in mammals in which modulation of NK-3 receptors and/or GABA_A receptors is of importance. These include depression, anxiety, panic disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, psychosis and schizophrenia, sleep disorders, cognitive disorders, low alertness, psychosis and schizophrenia, neurodegenerative disorders such as dementia, Alzheimer's diseases, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Down's syndrome, benzodiazepine overdoses, stress related somatic

disorders, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, dysthmic disorders, obesity, eating disorders, drug and alcohol addiction, movement disorders, convulsive disorders such as epilepsy, migraine, headache, multiple sclerosis and other demyelinating diseases, 5 AIDS related neuropathy, chemotherapy-induced neuropathy and neuralgia, diabetic or peripheral neuropathy, neurogenic inflammation, inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain, and other types of chronic or acute pain, Reynaud's disease, vasodilation, vasospasm, angina, asthma, chronic obstructive 10 pulmonary diseases, airway hyperreactivity, cough, allergic rhinitis, bronchospasm, bronchopneumonia, ocular inflammation, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, biliary dysfunction, skin disorders and itch, hypersensitivity disorders, atopic dermatitis, contact 15 dermatitis, cutaneous wheal and flare, renal disorders, urinary incontinence, immune system disorders and adverse immunological reactions, fibrositis, osteoarthritis, eosinophilic fascioliasis, and scleroderma. Compounds contained in the invention are also useful for the diagnosis of disorders 20 involving mediation by neurokinin NK-3 receptors and/or GABA_A receptors in patients.

Non-toxic pharmaceutical salts include salts, include, but not limited to salts with inorganic acids such as hydrochloride, 25 sulfate, phosphate, diphosphate, hydrobromide, and nitrite or salts with an organic acid such as malate, maleate, fumarate, tartrate, succinate, citrate, acetate, lactate, methanesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, 2-hydroxyethylsulfonate, pamoate, salicylate and stearate. Similarly, pharmaceutically 30 acceptable cations include, but are not limited to sodium, potassium, calcium, aluminum, lithium and ammonium.

The present invention also encompasses the prodrugs of the compounds of Formula I. Those skilled in the art will recognize

various synthetic methodologies (references by N. Bodor, Drugs of the Future, 1981, 6, 165-182, or H. Bundgaard, Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews, 1989, 3, 39-65) which may be employed to prepare non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs of the compounds encompassed by Formula I.

The compounds of general Formula I may be administered orally, topically, parenterally, by inhalation or spray or rectally in dosage unit formulations containing conventional non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, adjuvants and vehicles. The term parenteral as used herein includes subcutaneous injections, intravenous, intramuscular, intrasternal injection or infusion techniques. In addition, there is provided a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of general Formula I and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. One or more compounds of general Formula I may be present in association with one or more non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents and/or adjuvants and if desired other active ingredients. The pharmaceutical compositions containing compounds of general Formula I may be in a form suitable for oral use, for example, as tablets, troches, lozenges, aqueous or oily suspensions, dispersible powders or granules, emulsion, hard or soft capsules, or syrups or elixirs.

Compositions intended for oral use may be prepared according to any method known to the art for the manufacture of pharmaceutical compositions and such compositions may contain one or more agents selected from the group consisting of sweetening agents, flavoring agents, coloring agents and preserving agents in order to provide pharmaceutically elegant and palatable preparations. Tablets contain the active ingredient in admixture with non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable excipients which are suitable for the manufacture of

tablets. These excipients may be for example, inert diluents, such as calcium carbonate, sodium carbonate, lactose, calcium phosphate or sodium phosphate; granulating and disintegrating agents, for example, corn starch, or alginic acid; binding
5 agents, for example starch, gelatin or acacia, and lubricating agents, for example magnesium stearate, stearic acid or talc. The tablets may be uncoated or they may be coated by known techniques to delay disintegration and absorption in the gastrointestinal tract and thereby provide a sustained action
10 over a longer period. For example, a time delay material such as glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate may be employed.

Formulations for oral use may also be presented as hard gelatin capsules wherein the active ingredient is mixed with an inert solid diluent, for example, calcium carbonate, calcium
15 phosphate or kaolin, or as soft gelatin capsules wherein the active ingredient is mixed with water or an oil medium, for example peanut oil, liquid paraffin or olive oil.

Aqueous suspensions contain the active materials in admixture with excipients suitable for the manufacture of
20 aqueous suspensions. Such excipients are suspending agents, for example sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydropropylmethylcellulose, sodium alginate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, gum tragacanth and gum acacia; dispersing or wetting agents may be a naturally-occurring phosphatide, for
25 example, lecithin, or condensation products of an alkylene oxide with fatty acids, for example polyoxyethylene stearate, or condensation products of ethylene oxide with long chain aliphatic alcohols, for example heptadecaethyleneoxycetanol, or condensation products of ethylene oxide with partial esters
30 derived from fatty acids and a hexitol such as polyoxyethylene sorbitol monooleate, or condensation products of ethylene oxide with partial esters derived from fatty acids and hexitol anhydrides, for example polyethylene sorbitan monooleate. The aqueous suspensions may also contain one or more preservatives,

for example ethyl, or n-propyl p-hydroxybenzoate, one or more coloring agents, one or more flavoring agents, and one or more sweetening agents, such as sucrose or saccharin.

Oily suspensions may be formulated by suspending the active ingredients in a vegetable oil, for example arachis oil, olive oil, sesame oil or coconut oil, or in a mineral oil such as liquid paraffin. The oily suspensions may contain a thickening agent, for example beeswax, hard paraffin or cetyl alcohol. Sweetening agents such as those set forth above, and flavoring agents may be added to provide palatable oral preparations. These compositions may be preserved by the addition of an anti-oxidant such as ascorbic acid.

Dispersible powders and granules suitable for preparation of an aqueous suspension by the addition of water provide the active ingredient in admixture with a dispersing or wetting agent, suspending agent and one or more preservatives. Suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents are exemplified by those already mentioned above. Additional excipients, for example sweetening, flavoring and coloring agents, may also be present.

Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may also be in the form of oil-in-water emulsions. The oily phase may be a vegetable oil, for example olive oil or arachis oil, or a mineral oil, for example liquid paraffin or mixtures of these. Suitable emulsifying agents may be naturally-occurring gums, for example gum acacia or gum tragacanth, naturally-occurring phosphatides, for example soy bean, lecithin, and esters or partial esters derived from fatty acids and hexitol, anhydrides, for example sorbitan monoleate, and condensation products of the said partial esters with ethylene oxide, for example polyoxyethylene sorbitan monoleate. The emulsions may also contain sweetening and flavoring agents.

Syrups and elixirs may be formulated with sweetening agents, for example glycerol, propylene glycol, sorbitol or

sucrose. Such formulations may also contain a demulcent, a preservative and flavoring and coloring agents. The pharmaceutical compositions may be in the form of a sterile injectable aqueous or oleaginous suspension. This suspension
5 may be formulated according to the known art using those suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents which have been mentioned above. The sterile injectable preparation may also be sterile injectable solution or suspension in a non-toxic parentally acceptable diluent or
10 solvent, for example as a solution in 1,3-butanediol. Among the acceptable vehicles and solvents that may be employed are water, Ringer's solution and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile, fixed oils are conventionally employed as a solvent or suspending medium. For this purpose any bland fixed
15 oil may be employed including synthetic mono-or diglycerides. In addition, fatty acids such as oleic acid find use in the preparation of injectables.

The compounds of general Formula I may also be administered in the form of suppositories for rectal administration of the
20 drug. These compositions can be prepared by mixing the drug with a suitable non-irritating excipient which is solid at ordinary temperatures but liquid at the rectal temperature and will therefore melt in the rectum to release the drug. Such materials are cocoa butter and polyethylene glycols.

25 Compounds of general Formula I may be administered parenterally in a sterile medium. The drug, depending on the vehicle and concentration used, can either be suspended or dissolved in the vehicle. Advantageously, adjuvants such as local anesthetics, preservatives and buffering agents can be
30 dissolved in the vehicle.

Dosage levels of the order of from about 0.1 mg to about 140 mg per kilogram of body weight per day are useful in the treatment of the above-indicated conditions (about 0.5 mg to about 7 g per patient per day). The amount of active ingredient

that may be combined with the carrier materials to produce a single dosage form will vary depending upon the host treated and the particular mode of administration. Dosage unit forms will generally contain between from about 1 mg to about 500 mg of an active ingredient.

Frequency of dosage may also vary depending on the compound used and the particular disease treated. However, for treatment of most disorders, a dosage regimen of 4 times daily or less is preferred. For the treatment of schizophrenia, depression, cognitive deficit or anxiety a dosage regimen of 1 or 2 times daily is particularly preferred. For the treatment of sleep disorders a single dose that rapidly reaches effective concentrations is desirable.

It will be understood, however, that the specific dose level for any particular patient will depend upon a variety of factors including the activity of the specific compound employed, the age, body weight, general health, sex, diet, time of administration, route of administration, and rate of excretion, drug combination and the severity of the particular disease undergoing therapy.

Preferred compounds of the invention will have certain pharmacological properties. Such properties include, but are not limited to oral bioavailability, low toxicity, low serum protein binding and desirable *in vitro* and *in vivo* half-lives. Penetration of the blood brain barrier for compounds used to treat CNS disorders is necessary, while low brain levels of compounds used to treat peripheral disorders are often preferred.

Assays may be used to predict these desirable pharmacological properties. Assays used to predict bioavailability include transport across human intestinal cell monolayers, including Caco-2 cell monolayers. Toxicity to cultured hepatocytes may be used to predict compound toxicity. Penetration of the blood brain barrier of a compound in humans

may be predicted from the brain levels of the compound in laboratory animals given the compound intravenously.

Serum protein binding may be predicted from albumin binding assays. Such assays are described in a review by Oravcová, et al. (Journal of Chromatography B (1996) volume 677, pages 1-27).

Compound half-life is inversely proportional to the frequency of dosage of a compound. In vitro half-lives of compounds may be predicted from assays of microsomal half-life as described by Kuhnz and Gieschen (Drug Metabolism and Disposition, (1998) volume 26, pages 1120-1127).

The present invention also pertains to packaged pharmaceutical compositions for treating disorders responsive to NK-3 and/or GABA_A receptor modulation, e.g., treatment schizophrenia, depression, or chronic pulmonary obstructive disorder by NK-3 receptor modulation or treatment of sleep disorders, cognitive deficits, anxiety or depression by GABA_A receptor modulation. The packaged pharmaceutical compositions include a container holding a therapeutically effective amount of at least one NK-3 and/or GABA_A receptor modulator as described supra and instructions (e.g., labeling) indicating the the contained NK-3 and/or GABA_A receptor ligand is to be used for treating a disorder responsive to NK-3 and/or GABA_A receptor modulation in the patient.

The present invention also pertains to methods of inhibiting the binding of neurokinin to the NK-3 receptor which methods involve contacting a compound of the invention with cells expressing NK-3 receptors, wherein the compound is present at a concentration sufficient to inhibit neurokinin binding to cells expressing a cloned human NK-3 receptor in vitro and to method for altering the signal-transducing activity of NK-3 receptors, said method comprising exposing cells expressing such receptor to an effective amount of a compound of the invention.

Preferred compounds of the invention show selectivity for the NK-3 Receptor or the GABA_A receptor as measured by standard assays for NK-3 and GABA_A Receptor binding (See example 41 for a standard assay of NK-3 receptor binding and example 43 for a standard assay of GABA_A receptor binding).

Preferred compounds of the invention are those that show selectivity for the NK-3 receptor over the GABA_A receptor and exhibit a 10-fold greater affinity for the NK-3 receptor; more preferred compounds exhibit a 100-fold greater affinity for the NK-3 receptor; and most preferred compounds exhibit a 1000-fold greater affinity for the NK-3 receptor in a standard assay of NK-3 receptor binding than for the GABA_A receptor in a standard assay of GABA_A receptor binding.

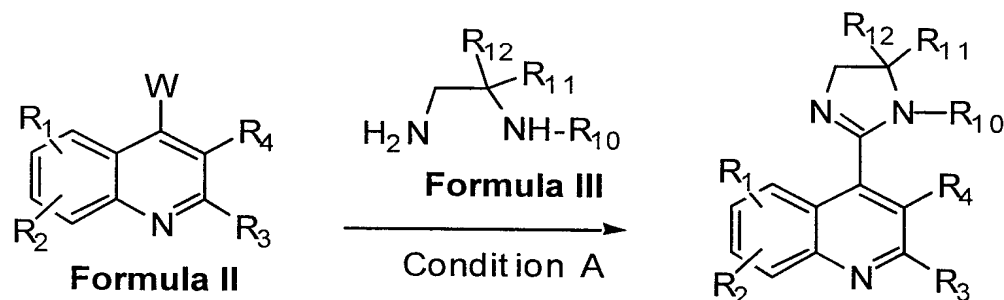
Preferred compounds of the invention are those that show selectivity for the GABA_A receptor over the NK-3 receptor and exhibit a 10-fold greater affinity for the GABA_A receptor, more preferred compounds exhibit a 100-fold greater affinity for the GABA_A receptor, and most preferred compounds exhibit a 1000-fold greater affinity for the GABA_A receptor in a standard assay of GABA_A receptor binding than for the NK-3 receptor in a standard assay of Nk-3 receptor binding.

COMPOUND PREPARATION

Several methods for preparing the compounds of this invention are illustrated in the following Scheme I, II and III. The synthesis of compounds of Formula II is described in detail in the several publications including Giardina et. al. J. Med. Chem. **1997**, 40, 1794-1807 and Giardina et. al. J. Heterocyclic Chem., **1997**, 34, 557-559 and references cited therein. It will be recognized by those skilled in the art that the structures of Formula III, IV, and V can be readily synthesized from various readily available amino acids. Alternatively, various readily

available ketones and aldehydes can be converted to the corresponding aminocyanides and cyanohydrins and subsequently reduced to the desired diamines and aminoalcohols. Those skilled in the art will recognize that in certain instances it will be necessary to utilize compounds of Formula II and Formula III bearing protecting groups and that these groups can be removed in a subsequent reaction to yield compounds of Formula I as described in "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis", 2nd Ed., Greene, T. W. and related publications.

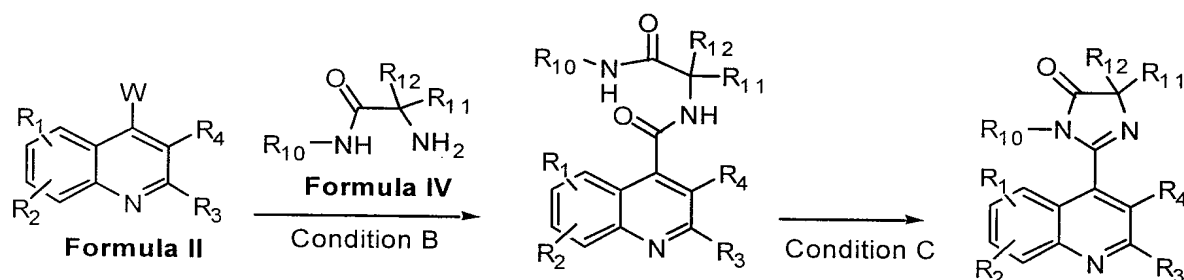
Scheme I



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_{10} , R_{11} , and R_{12} are as defined above, W is $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2Me$, $-CO_2Et$, $-C(OEt)_3$, $-C=NHOMe$, $-C=NHOOEt$, $-CSNH_2$, $-C=NHNH_2$, or $-CN$.

Condition A includes, but is not limited to, heating with or without a solvent such as toluene, ethanol, or xylene at 40-250 °C; heating with $AlMe_3$ in a solvent such as toluene at 80-120 °C and, occasionally, continued heating in the presence of Lawesson's reagent; or stirring at room temperature in presence of triphenylphosphine, CCl_4 and a base such as triethylamine or diisopropylethylamine in a solvent such as acetonitrile or a mixture of solvents such as acetonitrile-pyridine.

Scheme II

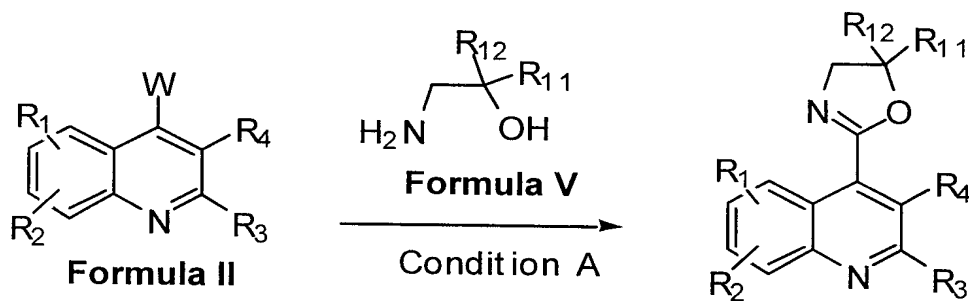


wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₁₀, R₁₁, and R₁₂ are as defined above,
 5 W is -COCl or -CO₂H.

Condition B includes, but is not limited to, reaction of the amine with acid chloride (W=COCl) in the presence of base as well as amide bond forming conditions such as those employing the BOP reagent in the presence of base.

Condition C includes, but is not limited to, treatment with sodium methoxide in the presence of methanol as solvent.

Scheme III



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₁₁, R₁₂ are as defined above, W is -CO₂H, -CO₂Me, -CO₂Et, -C(OEt)₃, -C=NHOMe, -C=NHOOEt, -CSNH₂, or -C=NNH₂.

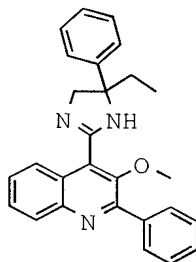
Condition A includes, but is not limited to, heating with or without a solvent such as toluene, ethanol, or xylene at 40-250 °C; heating with AlMe₃ in a solvent such as toluene at 80-120

°C and, occasionally, continued heating in the presence of Lawesson's reagent; or stirring at room temperature in presence of triphenylphosphine, CCl_4 and a base such as triethylamine or diisopropylethylamine in a solvent such as acetonitrile or a mixture of solvents such as acetonitrile-pyridine.

Those having skill in the art will recognize that the starting materials may be varied and additional steps employed to produce compounds encompassed by the present invention, as demonstrated by the following examples. In some cases protection of certain reactive functionalities may be necessary to achieve some of the above transformations. In general the need for such protecting groups will be obvious to those skilled in the art of organic synthesis as well as the conditions necessary to attach and remove such groups.

The invention is illustrated further by the following examples which are not to be construed as limiting the invention in scope or spirit to the specific procedures described in them.

Example 1. 4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline



Step 1. 2-Amino-2-phenylbutanenitrile

A mixture of propiophenone (30 g), KCN (34.5 g) and NH_4Cl (30 g) in 180 mL of conc. NH_4OH and 120 mL of EtOH is stirred at ambient temperature for 4 days. The reaction mixture is

concentrated under vacuum and ether was added to the solid residue. The ether suspension is filtered and solid is washed with ether. Excess 1M of HCl in ether is added to the filtrate to precipitate HCl salt. The white solid is collected by
5 filtration, washed with hexane and ether, and dried to give 29 g of the title compound as HCl salts. The white solid is basified with excess aqueous NaHCO_3 and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The extract is washed with brine, dried and concentrated to give 19 g of the titled compound as clear oil.

10

Step 2. 2-Phenylbutane-1, 2-diamine

To a stirred suspension of lithium aluminum hydride (LAH, 7.0 g) in 250 mL of ether is added dropwise a solution of the compound of step 1 (10.0 g) in 10 mL of ether at -70°C . The
15 reaction mixture is stirred at -60°C to -70°C until TLC (10% MeOH in CH_2Cl_2) shows the disappearance of the starting material. The excess LAH is destroyed by cautious addition of a saturated aqueous Na_2SO_4 solution. The resulting mixture is filtered and solid is washed with EtOAc. The filtrate is dried over Na_2SO_4 and
20 concentrated under vacuum to give 8.3 g of the title compound as clear oil.

Step 3. N-(2-Amino-2-phenylbutyl)-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinoline-4-carboxamide

25 A mixture of 3-methoxy-2-phenylquinoline-4-carboxylic acid (3.0 g), and the compound of step 2 (3.0 g), BOP (5.7 g) and TEA (2.0 g) in 25 mL of anhydrous DMF is stirred at ambient temperature overnight. The mixture is diluted with water and EtOAc. The organic layer is separated, washed with water and
30 concentrated under vacuum. The residue is purified on a silica gel column, eluting with EtOAc and Hexane (1:1) to afford the title compound as white foam.

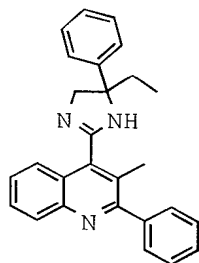
Step 4. (R,S)-4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline

Triphenylphosphine (4.3 g) is added once to a mixture of the compound of step 3 (2.3 g), TEA (1.6 mL), CCl₄ (3.1 mL),
5 pyridine (20 mL) and acetonitrile (20 mL). The reaction mixture is stirred at ambient temperature overnight. It is then evaporated and mixed with EtOAc and aqueous Na₂CO₃ solution. The organic layer is separated, and washed with brine and evaporated. The residue is purified on a silica gel column,
10 eluting with EtOAc and Hexane (from 1: 4 to 1:1) to afford the titled compound as white foam. HCl salt is prepared by addition of HCl in ether to a solution of free base in EtOAc and filtration.

LC-MS data: HPLC: 2.18 min (HPLC method: YMC-pack pro C₁₈
15 column, 33 x 4.6 mm(L x ID), 5 µm particle size. 3 min gradient from 5% to 95% B with 0.5 min hold at 95% B. Solvent A: 95% H₂O-5%MeOH-0.05%TFA; Solvent B: 95%MeOH-5%H₂O-0.05%TFA). Flow rate = 2.0 ml/min. Injection volume = 1 µl. MS (ES⁺): m/e 408 [MH]⁺.

20 Enantiomers of Example 1 are separated by Chiral HPLC column. Peak 1: retention time = 6.507 min (99.47% e.e.). Peak 2: retention time = 10.497 min (99.23% e.e.). Separation method: Chiral HPLC column: CHIRALPAK® AD, 250x4.6 mm (L x ID), 20 µm particle size. Eluent: Hexane/Ethanol/DEA=90/10/0.1 (v/v/v).
25 Flow rate = 2.0 ml/min. P = 11 kg/cm². Injection volume = 5 µl.

Example 2. 4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-
imidazoline



2-Phenylbutane-1,2-diamine (328 mg, 2.0 mmol) in 4.4 mL of toluene is added dropwise to a stirred solution of trimethylaluminum (2.0 M, 1 mL) in 5 mL of toluene at below 10°C under nitrogen. At the end of methane evolution, methyl-2-phenyl-4-quinolinecarboxylate (263 mg, 1mmol) in 2 mL of toluene is gradually added at room temperature. The reaction mixture is refluxed for 3 hours under nitrogen. After cooling, the solution is treated with 1 mL of water, diluted with 1mL of methanol and 1 mL of methylene chloride, and refluxed for 15 minutes. After separation of organic solvent and solvent evaporation, the residue is purified over silica gel chromatography eluting with 5-10% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂. The corresponding compound is obtained as a white solid.

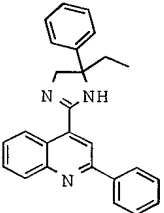
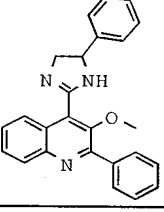
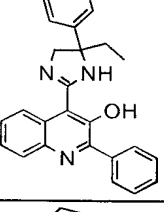
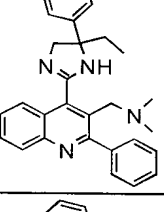
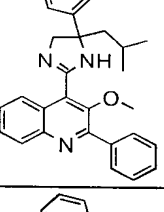
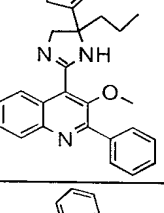
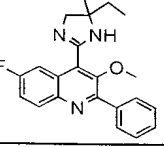
LC-MS data (same conditions as given in example 1): HPLC: 2.13 ,MS (ES⁺): m/e 392 [MH]⁺.

Examples 3-20

The following compounds are prepared by methods analogous to that of Example 1. LC-MS data are given as HPLC retention times and [MH]⁺. The HPLC retention times of Table 1 are obtained by the method given in Example 1.

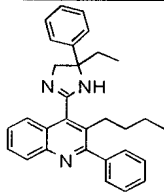
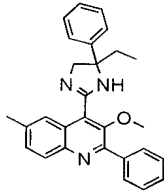
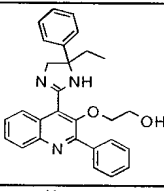
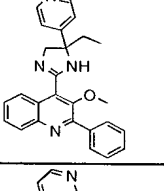
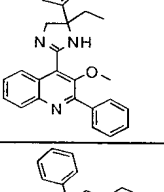
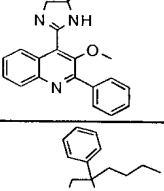
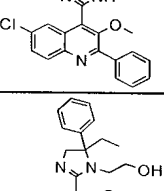
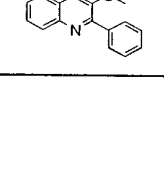
TABLE 1

Example No.	Structure	Compound Name	HPLC time (min)	[MH] ⁺

Example No.	Structure	Compound Name	HPLC time (min)	[MH] ⁺
3		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.23	378
4		4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.12	380
5		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-hydroxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	N/A	394
6		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-[3-(dimethylamino)methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl]-imidazoline	1.92	435
7		4-Isobutyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.29	437
8		4-Propyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.24	422
9		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-fluoro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.21	426

Example No.	Structure	Compound Name	HPLC time (min)	[MH] ⁺
10		4-Methyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.15	394
11		2'-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-spiro[6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-benzocycloheptene-5,4'-imidazoline]	2.26	434
12		2'-(3-methoxy-6-methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-spiro[6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-benzocycloheptene-5,4'-imidazoline]	2.31	448
13		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-[(3-(diethylamino)methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline]	1.97	463
14		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-[3-(1-pyrrolidinyl)methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl]-imidazoline	1.96	461
15		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-[3-(4-morpholinyl)methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl]-imidazoline	2.13	477
16		4-Isobutyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-fluoro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.32	454

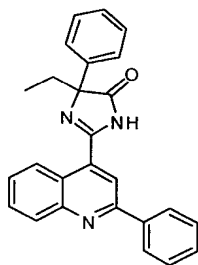
Example No.	Structure	Compound Name	HPLC time (min)	[MH] ⁺
17		4-Propyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-fluoro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	1.61	348
18		3-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-7a-phenyl-5,6,7,7a-tetrahydro-1H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole	2.30	420
19		4-Propyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-methyl-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.29	436
20		4-Propyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-chloro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.35	456
21		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-chloro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.29	442
22		4-Isopropyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.21	422
23		4-Ethyl-4-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.29	442

Example No.	Structure	Compound Name	HPLC time (min)	[MH] ⁺
24		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-butyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.33	444
25		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-6-methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.24	422
26		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-[3-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl]-imidazoline	2.10	438
27		4-Ethyl-4-(4-pyridinyl)-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	1.83	409
28		4-Ethyl-4-(3-pyridinyl)-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	1.91	409
29		4-Butyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.31	436
30		4-Butyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-chloro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.39	471
31		1-(2-Hydroxyethoxy)-5-ethyl-5-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	2.12	452

Example No.	Structure	Compound Name	HPLC time (min)	[MH] ⁺
32		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-{3-[2-(diethylamino)ethoxy]-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl}-imidazoline	N/A	493
33		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-{3-[2-(propylamino)ethoxy]-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl}-imidazoline	N/A	479
34		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-{3-[2-(dipropylamino)ethoxy]-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl}-imidazoline	N/A	521
35		4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-{3-[2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)ethoxy]-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl}-imidazoline	N/A	491
36		S-3-(3-Methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-5,6,7,7a-tetrahydro-1H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole	N/A	314
37		5-Ethyl-1-methyl-5-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline	N/A	422

Example 38.

5 4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazolin-5-one

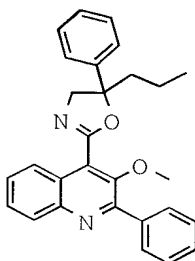


To a solution of 2-phenylquinolinecarboxylic acid (600 mg, 2.4 mmol) in 10 mL of CH_2Cl_2 containing 1 mL of triethylamine is added BOP (1.3 g, 2.9 mmol) followed by 2-amino-2-phenylbutanamide (500 mg, 2.8 mmol). The reaction mixture is stirred overnight at room temperature. The mixture is diluted with 20 mL of CH_2Cl_2 , then washed with aqueous Na_2CO_3 , aqueous citric acid and brine. After drying over Na_2SO_4 , the solvent is evaporated to afford N-(1-Carbamoyl-1-phenylpropyl)-2-phenyl-4-quinolinecarboxamide (700 mg) as a pale yellow foam.

A mixture of N-(1-Carbamoyl-1-phenylpropyl)-2-phenyl-4-quinolinecarboxamide (100 mg, 0.24 mmol) and MeONa (13.2 mg, 0.24 mmol) in 5 mL of MeOH is refluxed for 4 hours. After cyclization is complete, the mixture is cooled and neutralized with HCl in MeOH and solvent is evaporated. The residue is washed with water and dried. Trituration with ethyl acetate affords the corresponding compound as a white solid.

LC-MS data (same condition as given in example 1): HPLC: 2.86 min. MS (ES^+): m/e 392 $[\text{MH}]^+$.

Example 39. 2-(3-Methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-5-phenyl-5-propyl-2-oxazoline



Triphenylphosphine (2.10 g, 8.0 mmol) is added to a mixture of (3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)carboxylic acid (0.61 g, 2.2 mmol), pyridine (anhydrous, 5 mL), acetonitrile (anhydrous, 5 mL), triethylamine (1.4 mL, 10 mmol), 1-amino-2-phenyl-2-pentanol (0.40 g, 2.2 mmol), and carbon tetrachloride (1.5 mL, 16 mmol) stirred under nitrogen at ambient temperature. After stirring for 1 h without heating, the mixture is stirred at 40°C for 2 h. The reaction mixture is dissolved in chloroform (100 mL). The solution is washed with 10% acetic acid (100 mL) followed by 5% sodium bicarbonate (100 mL) and dried over sodium carbonate. The solvent is evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product is subjected to column chromatography on silica gel using chloroform - diethyl ether (49 : 1) and then to preparative TLC using hexanes - diethyl ether (3 : 1) as an eluent to give the titled compound (160 mg, 17%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 0.93 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.32 (m, 1 H), 1.48 (m, 1 H), 2.13 (m, 2 H), 3.60 (s, 3 H), 4.35 (d, J = 14.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.40 (d, J = 14.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.31 (tt, J = 7.1 and 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.40 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.43 - 7.56 (m, 6 H), 7.67 (ddd, J = 8.2, 6.9 and 1.5 Hz, 1 H) 7.96 (dd, J = 8.4 and 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 8.07 (m, 2 H), 8.17 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1 H). LC-MS data (same condition as given in example 1): HPLC: 2.62 min. MS (ES⁺): m/e 407 [MH]⁺.

Example 40. 2-(3-Methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-5-phenyl-5-propyl-2-oxazoline

Following essentially the procedure of Example 39, (3-methy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)carboxylic acid and 1-amino-2-phenyl-2-pentanol are converted to the titled compound.

LC-MS data (same condition as given in example 1): HPLC: 2.78 min. MS (ES⁺): m/e 423 [MH]⁺.

Example 41

Assay For NK-3 Receptor Binding Activity

The following assay is a standard assay for NK-3 receptor binding activity. Assays are performed as described in Krause et al (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 94: 310-315, 1997). The NK-3 receptor complementary DNA is cloned from human hypothalamic RNA using standard procedures. The receptor cDNA is inserted into the expression vector pM² to transfect the mammalian Chinese hamster ovary cell line, and a stably expressing clonal cell line is isolated, characterized and used for the current experiments. Cells are grown in minimal essential medium alpha containing 10% fetal bovine serum and 250 µg/ml G418. Cells are liberated from cell culture plates with No-zyne (PBS base, JRH Biosciences), and harvested by low speed centrifugation. The cell pellet is homogenized in TBS (0.05 M TrisHCl, 120 mM NaCl, pH 7.4) with a Polytron homogenizer at setting 5 for 20 seconds, and total cellular membranes are isolated by centrifugation at 47,500 x g for 10 minutes. The membrane pellet is resuspended by homogenization with the Polytron as above, and the membranes are then isolated by centrifugation at 47,500 x g for 10 minutes. This final membrane pellet is resuspended in TBS at a protein concentration of 350 µg/ml.

Receptor binding assays contain a total volume of 200 µl containing 50 µg membrane protein, 0.05-0.15 nM ¹²⁵I-methylPhe⁷-neurokinin B, drug or blocker in TBS containing 1.0 mg/ml bovine serum albumen, 0.2 mg/ml bacitracin, 20 µg/ml leupeptin and 20 µg/ml chymostatin. Incubations are carried out for 2 hours at 4 °C, and the membrane proteins are harvested by passing the incubation mixture by rapid filtration over presoaked GF/B filters to separate bound from free ligand. The filters are presoaked in TBS containing 2% BSA and 0.1% Tween 20. After filtration of the incubation mixture, filters are rinsed 4 times with ice-cold TBS containing 0.01% sodium dodecyl sulfate and

radioactivity is quantitated in a β -plate scintillation counter. One μ M methylPhe7-neurokinin B is added to some tubes to determine nonspecific binding. Data are collected in duplicate determinations, averaged, and the percent inhibition of total specific binding is calculated. The total specific binding is the total binding minus the nonspecific binding. In many cases, the concentration of unlabeled drug is varied and total displacement curves of binding is carried out. Data are converted to a form for the calculation of IC_{50} and Hill coefficient (nH). Binding data for compounds of this invention are listed in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Example	IC_{50} (nM)
1	19
2	0.3

Example 42Assay For NK-3 Functional Activity

Calcium Mobilization Assays: The human NK-3 bearing Chinese hamster ovary cells are grown in minimal essential media supplemented with 250 ug/ml G418, 10% fetal bovine serum and 25 mM Hepes, pH=7.4. Forty eight hours prior to the day of assay, the cells are plated in fresh media that does not contain the G418. On the day of assay, cells grown to 70-90% confluency in 96-well plates are washed with Krebs-Ringer buffer (25 mM HEPES, 5 mM KCl, 0.96 mM NaH_2PO_4 , 1 mM $MgSO_4$, 2 mM $CaCl_2$, 5 mM glucose, 1 mM probenecid, pH 7.4) and are then incubated for 1-2 hours in the above buffer supplemented with Fluo3-AM (2.5 to 10 μ g/ml; Teflabs) at 37 degrees C in an environment containing 5% CO_2 . The wells are then washed twice with Krebs Ringers HEPES buffer.

Agonist-induced (methylPhe7-neurokinin B) calcium mobilization is monitored using a FLIPR (Molecular Devices) instrument. The agonist is added to the cells and fluorescence responses are continuously recorded for up to 5min. For the examination of antagonist drug candidates, compounds are preincubated with the cells for up to 30 min. prior to administration of the methylPhe7-neurokinin B agonist usually at a concentration that brings about a 50% maximal activity. Responses are recorded for times up to 5 min. Kaleidagraph software (Synergy Software, Reading, PA) is utilized to fit the data to the equation $y = a * (1 / (1 + (b/x)^c))$ to determine the EC_{50} value or IC_{50} value for the response. In this equation, y is the maximum fluorescence signal, x is the concentration of the agonist or antagonist, a is the E_{max} , b corresponds to the EC_{50} or IC_{50} value, and, finally, c is the Hill coefficient.

Example 43

Assay for GABA_A Receptor Binding

The following assay is a standard assay for GABA_A receptor binding.

The high affinity and high selectivity of compounds of this invention for the benzodiazepine site of the GABA_A receptor is confirmed using the binding assay described in Thomas and Tallman (*J. Bio. Chem.* 1981; 156:9838-9842, and *J. Neurosci.* 1983; 3:433-440).

Rat cortical tissue is dissected and homogenized in 25 volumes (w/v) of Buffer A (0.05 M Tris HCl buffer, pH 7.4 at 4 °C). The tissue homogenate is centrifuged in the cold (4 °C) at 20,000 x g for 20 minutes. The supernatant is decanted, the pellet rehomogenized in the same volume of buffer, and centrifuged again at 20,000 x g. The supernatant of this centrifugation step is decanted and the pellet stored at -20 °C overnight. The pellet is then thawed and resuspended in 25

volumes of Buffer A (original wt/vol), centrifuged at 20,000 x g and the supernatant decanted. This wash step is repeated once. The pellet is finally resuspended in 50 volumes of Buffer A.

Incubations contain 100 μ l of tissue homogenate, 100 μ l of radioligand, (0.5 nM 3 H-Ro15-1788 [3 H-Flumazenil], specific activity 80 Ci/mmol), and test compound or control (see below), and are brought to a total volume of 500 μ l with Buffer A. Incubations are carried for 30 min at 4°C and then rapidly filtered through Whatman GFB filters to separate free and bound ligand. Filters are washed twice with fresh Buffer A and counted in a liquid scintillation counter. Nonspecific binding (control) is determined by displacement of 3 H Ro15-1788 with 10 μ M Diazepam (Research Biochemicals International, Natick, MA). Data were collected in triplicate, averaged, and percent inhibition of total specific binding (Total Specific Binding = Total - Nonspecific) was calculated for each compound.

A competition binding curve is obtained with up to 11 points spanning the compound concentration range from 10^{-12} M to 10^{-5} M obtained per curve by the method described above for determining percent inhibition. K_i values are calculated according the Cheng-Prusoff equation. When tested in this assay compounds of the invention exhibit K_i values of less than 1 μ M, preferred compounds of the invention have K_i values of less than 500 nM and more compounds of the invention have K_i values of less than 100 nM.

Example 44

Assay for GABA_A Receptor Functional Activity

Electrophysiology

The following assay is used to determine if a compound of the invention act as an agonist, an antagonist, or an inverse agonist at the benzodiazepine site of the GABA_A receptor.

Assays are carried out as described in White and Gurley (NeuroReport 6: 1313-1316, 1995) and White, Gurley, Hartnett, Stirling, and Gregory (Receptors and Channels 3: 1-5, 1995) with modifications. Electrophysiological recordings are carried out using the two electrode voltage-clamp technique at a membrane holding potential of -70 mV. *Xenopus Laevis* oocytes are enzymatically isolated and injected with non-polyadenylated cRNA mixed in a ratio of 4:1:4 for α , β and γ subunits, respectively. Of the nine combinations of α , β and γ subunits described in the White et al. publications, preferred combinations are $\alpha_1\beta_2\gamma_2$, $\alpha_2\beta_3\gamma_2$, $\alpha_3\beta_3\gamma_2$, and $\alpha_5\beta_3\gamma_2$. Preferably all of the subunit cRNAs in each combination are human clones or all are rat clones. The sequence of each of these cloned subunits is available from GENBANK, e.g., human α_1 , GENBANK accession no. X14766, human α_2 , GENBANK accession no. A28100; human α_3 , GENBANK accession no. A28102; human α_5 , GENBANK accession no. A28104; human β_2 , GENBANK accession no. M82919; human β_3 , GENBANK accession no. Z20136; human γ_2 , GENBANK accession no. X15376; rat α_1 , GENBANK accession no. L08490, rat α_2 , GENBANK accession no. L08491; rat α_3 , GENBANK accession no. L08492; rat α_5 , GENBANK accession no. L08494; rat β_2 , GENBANK accession no. X15467; rat β_3 , GENBANK accession no. X15468; and rat γ_2 , GENBANK accession no. L08497. For each subunit combination, sufficient message for each constituent subunit is injected to provide current amplitudes of >10 nA when 1 μ M GABA is applied.

Compounds are evaluated against a GABA concentration that evokes <10% of the maximal evokable GABA current (e.g. 1 μ M - 9 μ M). Each oocyte is exposed to increasing concentrations of compound in order to evaluate a concentration/effect relationship. Compound efficacy is calculated as a percent-change in current amplitude: $100*((I_c/I)-1)$, where I_c is the GABA evoked current amplitude observed in the presence of test

compound and I is the GABA evoked current amplitude observed in the absence of the test compound.

Specificity of a compound for the benzodiazepine site is determined following completion of a concentration/effect curve. After washing the oocyte sufficiently to remove previously applied compound, the oocyte is exposed to GABA + 1 μ M RO15-1788, followed by exposure to GABA + 1 μ M RO15-1788 + test compound. Percent change due to addition of compound is calculated as described above. Any percent change observed in the presence of RO15-1788 is subtracted from the percent changes in current amplitude observed in the absence of 1 μ M RO15-1788. These net values are used for the calculation of average efficacy and EC₅₀ values by standard methods. To evaluate average efficacy and EC₅₀ values, the concentration/effect data are averaged across cells and fit to the logistic equation.

Example 45

Preparation of radiolabeled probe compounds of the invention

The compounds of the invention are prepared as radiolabeled probes by carrying out their synthesis using precursors comprising at least one atom that is a radioisotope. The radioisotope is preferably selected from of at least one of carbon (preferably ¹⁴C), hydrogen (preferably ³H), sulfur (preferably ³⁵S), or iodine (preferably ¹²⁵I). Such radiolabeled probes are conveniently synthesized by a radioisotope supplier specializing in custom synthesis of radiolabeled probe compounds. Such suppliers include Amersham Corporation, Arlington Heights, IL; Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. Andover, MA; SRI International, Menlo Park, CA; Wizard Laboratories, West Sacramento, CA; ChemSyn Laboratories, Lexena, KS; American Radiolabeled Chemicals, Inc., St. Louis, MO; and Moravek Biochemicals Inc., Brea, CA.

Tritium labeled probe compounds are also conveniently prepared catalytically via platinum-catalyzed exchange in tritiated acetic acid, acid-catalyzed exchange in tritiated trifluoroacetic acid, or heterogeneous-catalyzed exchange with tritium gas. Such preparations are also conveniently carried out as a custom radiolabeling by any of the suppliers listed in the preceding paragraph using the compound of the invention as substrate. In addition, certain precursors may be subjected to tritium-halogen exchange with tritium gas, tritium gas reduction of unsaturated bonds, or reduction using sodium borotritide, as appropriate.

Example 46

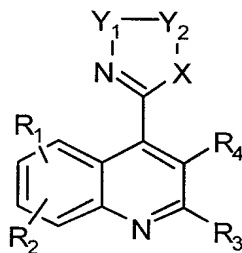
Use of compounds of the invention as probes for NK-3 and/or GABA_A receptors in cultured cells and tissue samples

Receptor autoradiography (receptor mapping) of NK-3 or GABA_A receptors in cultured cells or tissue samples is carried out in vitro as described by Kuhar in sections 8.1.1 to 8.1.9 of Current Protocols in Pharmacology (1998) John Wiley & Sons, New York, using radiolabeled compounds of the invention prepared as described in the preceding Example.

The invention and the manner and process of making and using it, are now described in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, to make and use the same. It is to be understood that the foregoing describes preferred embodiments of the present invention and that modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention as set forth in the claims. To particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as invention, the following claims conclude this specification.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula:



5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, wherein:

R₁ is selected from:

hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, -O(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -NO₂,
 10 -CN, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -SO₂N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)(C₁₋₆ alkyl),
 amino, -NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₆
 alkyl)CO(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)CO₂(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -NHSO₂(C₁₋₆
 alkyl), -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)SO₂(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -SO₂NHCO(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -
 15 CONHSO₂(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -CON(C₁₋₆ alkyl)(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -CO₂(C₁₋₆
 alkyl), -S(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -SO(C₁₋₆ alkyl), or -SO₂(C₁₋₆ alkyl),

wherein said C₁₋₆ alkyl is straight, branched or cyclic, may
 contain one or two double or triple bonds, and is
 unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents
 20 selected from: hydroxy, oxo, fluoro, amino, C₁₋₃ alkoxy;

R₂ and R₃ are independently selected from the groups consisting
 of:

25 (1) C₁₋₈ alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₈ alkyl is straight, branched
 or cyclic, may contain one or two double or triple bonds,
 and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more of the
 substituents selected from:

(i) hydroxy,
 30 (ii) oxo,

(iii) fluoro,

(iv) amino,

(v) Ar_1 , wherein Ar_1 is independently selected at each occurrence from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, imidazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, and benzopyrazolyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from:

hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-\text{O}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, amino, $-\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})\text{CO}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})\text{CO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{NHSO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{N}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})\text{SO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NHCO}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{CONHSO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{CON}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{CO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{S}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, $-\text{SO}(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, or $-\text{SO}_2(\text{C}_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})$, wherein C_{1-6} alkyl, is defined as above,

(vi) $-\text{NR}_5\text{R}_6$, wherein R_5 and R_6 are independently selected at each occurrence from:

(a) hydrogen,

(b) C_{1-6} alkyl, wherein C_{1-6} alkyl is as defined above,

(c) $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-Ar}_1$, wherein n is independently selected at each occurrence from 0, 1 or 2,

or the groups R_5 and R_6 are joined together to form a 4- to 8-membered ring and may contain one or two double bonds, or one or two oxo, or one or two O, S or N- R_7 , wherein R_7 is independently selected at each occurrence from hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-Ar}_1$,

- (vii) $-OR_5$, wherein R_5 is as defined above,
(viii) $-CONR_5R_6$ wherein R_5 and R_6 are as defined above,
(ix) $-CO_2R_5$, wherein said R_5 is as defined above;

5 (2) Ar_2 , wherein Ar_2 is independently selected at each occurrence from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, imidazolyl, benzoimidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, or benzopyrazolyl, and
10 unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents selected from:

hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-8} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-SO_2NH(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-SO_2N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)(C_{1-8} alkyl), amino, $-NH(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)(C_{1-8} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-8} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-8} alkyl), $-NHSO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)SO₂(C_{1-8} alkyl), $-SO_2NHCO(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-CONHSO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)(C_{1-8} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-S(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-SO(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), or $-SO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl is as defined above;

25 (3) $-NR_8R_9$, wherein R_8 and R_9 are independently selected at each occurrence from:

- (a) hydrogen,
(b) Ar_2 ,
(c) C_{1-8} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl is as defined
30 above;

or the groups R_8 and R_9 are joined together to form a 4- to 8-membered ring of which the 4- to 8- membered ring may contain one or more double bonds; one or more oxo;

one or more O, S(O)_n, N-R₇, wherein n and R₇ are as defined above; one or more groups consisting of hydroxy, halogen, amino, C₁₋₈ alkyl, -O(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -NO₂, -CN, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO₂N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), amino, -NH(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)CO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)CO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -NHSO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)SO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO₂NHCO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CONHSO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CON(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -S(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), or -SO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl),
 (4) -OR₈;

R₄ is selected from:

hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₈ alkyl, -O(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -NO₂, -CN, -SO₂NH₂, -SO₂NH(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO₂N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), amino, -NH(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)CO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)CO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -NHSO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₈ alkyl)SO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO₂NHCO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CONHSO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CON(C₁₋₈ alkyl)(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -CO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -S(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO(C₁₋₈ alkyl), -SO₂(C₁₋₈ alkyl), and Ar₂;

X is NH, O or N-R₁₀, wherein R₁₀ is C₁₋₈ alkyl;

Y₁ is -CR₁₁R₁₂-, -CR₁₁R₁₂(CH₂)_p-, -(CH₂)_pCR₁₁R₁₂-, or -(CH₂)_pCO-; where p is 0, 1, or 2; and R₁₁ and R₁₂ are independently selected at each occurrence from:

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) Ar₂,
- (3) C₁₋₈ alkyl,
- (4) -CONR₈R₉ wherein R₈ and R₉ are as defined above,
- (5) -CO₂R₈, wherein said R₈ is as defined above;

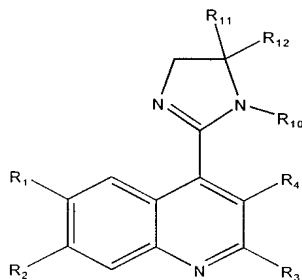
or the groups R_{11} and R_{12} are joined together to form a monocyclic, bicyclic, or tricyclic ring;

Y_2 is $-CR_{11}R_{12}-$ or $-CO-$ with the proviso that Y_2 is not $-CO-$ when Y_1 is $-(CH_2)_pCO-$, wherein p , R_{11} and R_{12} are as defined above; and

when X is $N-R_{10}$, the groups R_{10} and R_{11} may be joined to form a 5- to 8-membered ring which may contain one or more double bonds; one or more oxo; one or more O, $S(O)_n$, $N-R_7$ wherein n and R_7 are as defined above; one or more groups consisting of hydroxy, halogen, amino, C_{1-8} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-SO_2NH(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-SO_2N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)(C_{1-8} alkyl), amino, $-NH(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)(C_{1-8} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-8} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-8} alkyl), $-NHSO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)SO₂(C_{1-8} alkyl), $-SO_2NHCO(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-CONHSO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-8}$ alkyl)(C_{1-8} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-S(C_{1-8}$ alkyl), $-SO(C_{1-8}$ alkyl).

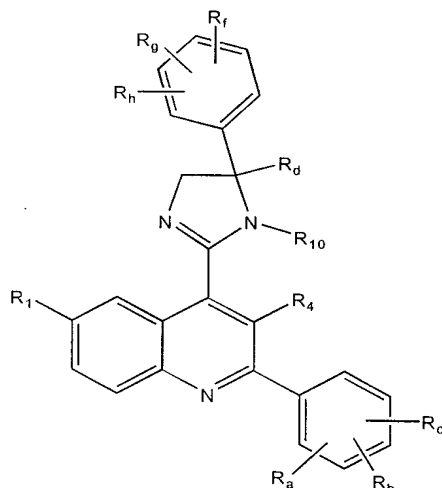
2. A compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein X is NH or $N-R_{10}$, where R_{10} is as defined in Claim 1.

3. A compound according to Claim 1, of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein: R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_{10} , R_{11} , and R_{12} are as defined in Claim 1.

4. A compound according to Claim 1, of the formula



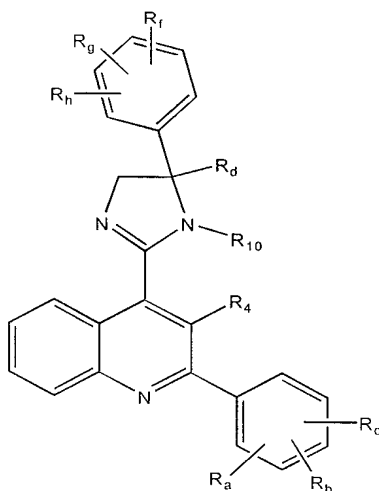
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,
 wherein: R_1 and R_4 are as defined in Claim 1;

R_a , R_b , and R_c and R_f , R_g , and R_h independently represent hydrogen,
 5 halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO $_2$ (C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl);

R_d is hydrogen, straight or branched chain alkyl, or straight or
 10 branched chain alkoxy;

R_{10} is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

5. A compound according to Claim 1, of the formula



15 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,
 where

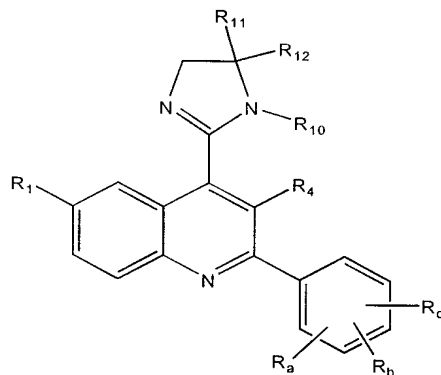
R_a , R_b , and R_c and R_f , R_g , and R_h independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl);

R_d is hydrogen or straight or branched chain alkyl or straight or branched chain alkoxy;

R_4 is as defined in Claim 1; and

R_{10} is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

6. A compound according to Claim 1, of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, where

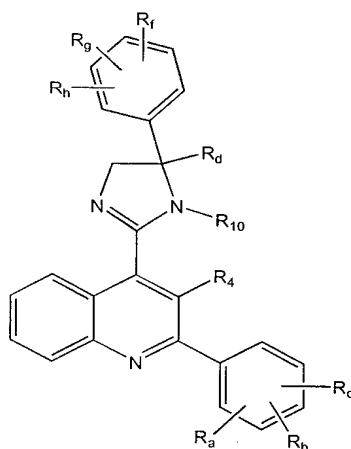
R_a , R_b , and R_c independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), wherein C_{1-6} alkyl is as defined above;

R_4 is as defined in Claim 1;

R_{10} is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are joined together to form a monocyclic, bicyclic, or tricyclic ring.

7. A compound according to Claim 1, of the formula



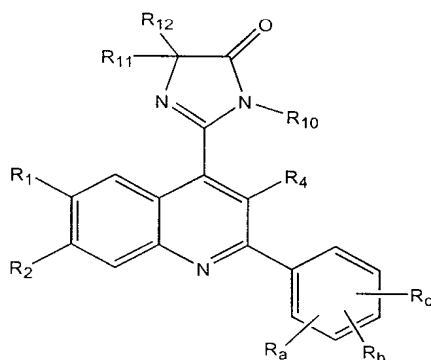
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,
where

R_a , R_b , and R_c and R_f , R_g , and R_h independently represent hydrogen,
5 halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$,
amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$
alkyl) $CO(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl) $CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$
alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl);

R_4 is as defined in Claim 1; and

10 R_d and R_{10} together form an alkylene group of from 3-5 carbon
atoms each of which is optionally substituted with methyl or
ethyl.

8. A compound according to Claim 1 of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,
where

R_a , R_b , and R_c independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy,
20 C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$

alkyl), -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)CO(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)CO₂(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -CON(C₁₋₆ alkyl)(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -CO₂(C₁₋₆ alkyl), wherein C₁₋₆alkyl is as defined above;

5 R₁, R₂, and R₄ are as defined in Claim 1;

R₁₀ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl; and

R₁₁ and R₁₂ are independently selected at each occurrence from:

(1) hydrogen,

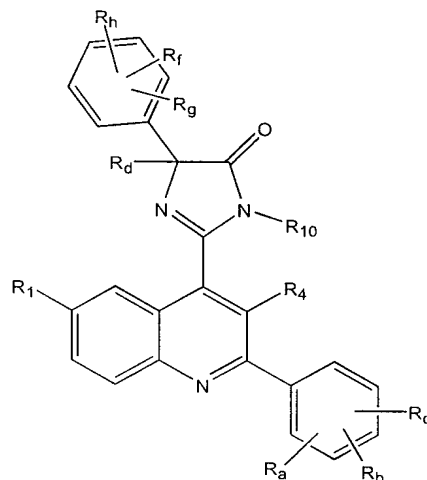
(2) Ar₂,

10 (3) C₁₋₈ alkyl,

(4) -CONR₈R₉ wherein R₈ and R₉ are as defined in Claim 1, and

(5) -CO₂R₈, wherein said R₈ is as defined in Claim 1.

9. A compound according to Claim 1 of the formula:



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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,
where

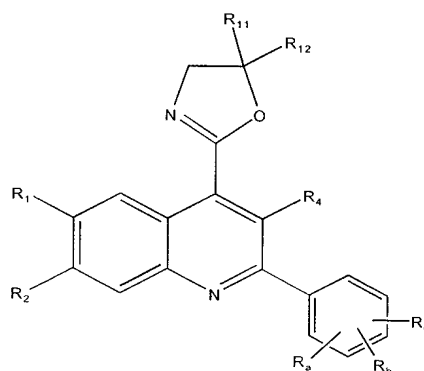
20 R_a, R_b, and R_c and R_f, R_g, and R_h independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, -O(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -NO₂, -CN, -SO₂NH₂, amino, -NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)CO(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)CO₂(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -CON(C₁₋₆ alkyl)(C₁₋₆ alkyl), -CO₂(C₁₋₆ alkyl);

25 R_d is hydrogen or straight or branched chain alkyl or straight or branched chain alkoxy;

R_1 and R_4 are as defined in Claim 1; and
 R_{10} is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

10. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X is oxygen.

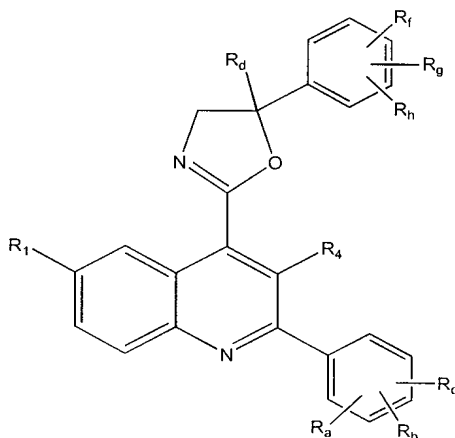
5 11. A compound according to Claim 1, of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,
 wherein: R_1 , R_2 , R_4 , R_{11} , and R_{12} are as defined in Claim 1; and

10 R_a , R_b , and R_c independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy,
 C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$
 alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl),
 $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-}$
 6 alkyl).

15 12. A compound according to Claim 1, of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof,
 wherein:

20 R_1 and R_4 are as defined in Claim 1;

R_a , R_b , and R_c and R_f , R_g , and R_h independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, $-O(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-SO_2NH_2$, amino, $-NH(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)CO₂(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CON(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), $-CO_2(C_{1-6}$ alkyl); and
 R_d is hydrogen or straight or branched chain alkyl or straight or branched chain alkoxy.

13. A compound according to claim 1, which is:

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-hydroxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-[3-(dimethylamino)methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl]-imidazoline;

4-Isobutyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Propyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-fluoro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline; or

4-Methyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline.

14. A compound according to claim 1, which is

2'-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-spiro[6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-benzocycloheptene-5,4'-imidazoline]; or

2'-(3-methoxy-6-methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-spiro[6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-benzocycloheptene-5,4'-imidazoline].

15. A compound according to claim 1, which is

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-[(3-(diethylamino)methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-[3-(1-pyrrolidinyl)methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

5 4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-[3-(4-morpholinyl)methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Isobutyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-fluoro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline; or

10 4-Propyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-fluoro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline.

16. A compound according to claim 1, which is 3-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-7a-phenyl-5,6,7,7a-tetrahydro-1H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole.

15

17. A compound according to claim 1, which is

4-Propyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-methyl-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

20 4-Propyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-chloro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-chloro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Isopropyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

25 4-Ethyl-4-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-butyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

30 4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-6-methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-[3-(2-hydroxyethoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-(4-pyridinyl)-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-(3-pyridinyl)-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline; or

4-Butyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline.

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18. A compound according to claim 1, which is 4-Butyl-4-phenyl-2-(6-chloro-3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

1-(2-Hydroxyethoxy)-5-ethyl-5-phenyl-2-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazoline;

10 4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-{3-[2-(diethylamino)ethoxy]-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl}-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-{3-[2-(propylamino)ethoxy]-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl}-imidazoline.

15 4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-{3-[2-(dipropylamino)ethoxy]-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl}-imidazoline;

4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-{3-[2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)ethoxy]-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl}-imidazoline; or

1-Methyl-5-phenyl-5-ethyl-2-{3-[2-(methoxy)-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl]-imidazoline.

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19. A compound according to claim 1, which is S-3-(3-methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-5,6,7,7a-tetrahydro-1H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole.

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20. A compound according to claim 1, which is 4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazolin-5-one; or 4-Ethyl-4-phenyl-2-(2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-imidazolin-5-one.

30 21. A compound according to claim 1, which is

2-(3-Methoxy-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-5-phenyl-5-propyl-2-oxazoline; or

2-(3-Methyl-2-phenylquinolin-4-yl)-5-phenyl-5-propyl-2-oxazoline.

22. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim for use in therapeutic treatment of a disease or disorder associated with pathogenic neurokinin-3 receptor activation.

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22. A compound as claimed in any preceding claim for use in therapeutic treatment of a disease or disorder associated with pathogenic agonism, inverse agonism or antagonism of the GABA_A receptor.

10

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

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24. A method for the treatment or prevention of a disease or disorder associated with pathogenic neurokinin-3 receptor activation, said method comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

20

25. A method for the treatment or prevention of a disease or disorder associated with pathogenic associated with pathogenic agonism, inverse agonism or antagonism of the GABA_A receptor, said method comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

25

26. The use of a compound according to Claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a disease or disorder associated with pathogenic neurokinin-3 receptor activation.

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27. The use of a compound according to Claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a

disease or disorder associated with pathogenic agonism, inverse agonism or antagonism of the GABA_A receptor.

28. The use of a compound according to Claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of anxiety, depression, sleep disorders, cognitive impairment, drug addiction, schizophrenia, obesity, chronic pulmonary obstructive disorder or pain.

29. A method according to Claim 24 wherein the disorder associated with pathogenic neurokinin-3 receptor is anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, obesity, chronic pulmonary obstructive disorder, or pain.

30. A method according to Claim 25 wherein the disease or disorder associated with pathogenic agonism, inverse agonism or antagonism of the GABA_A receptor is anxiety, depression, a sleep disorder, or cognitive impairment.

31. A method for localizing neurokinin-3 receptors in a tissue sample comprising:
contacting with the sample a detectably-labeled compound of claim 1 under conditions that permit binding of the compound to neurokinin 3 receptors, washing the sample to remove unbound compound, and detecting the bound compound.

32. A method for localizing GABA_A receptors in a tissue sample comprising:
contacting with the sample a detectably-labeled compound of claim 1 under conditions that permit binding of the compound to GABA_A receptors, washing the sample to remove unbound compound, and detecting the bound compound.

33. A method of inhibiting the binding of a neurokinin to a neurokinin 3 receptor, said method comprising contacting a compound of claim 1 with cells expressing such a receptor in the presence of a neurokinin, wherein the compound is present at a concentration sufficient to inhibit neurokinin binding to cells expressing a cloned human NK-3 receptor *in vitro*.

34. A method for altering the signal-transducing activity of neurokinin-3 receptors, said method comprising exposing cells expressing such receptors to a compound according to claim 1 at a concentration sufficient to inhibit neurokinin binding to cells expressing a cloned human neurokinin-3 receptor *in vitro*.

35. A packaged pharmaceutical composition comprising the pharmaceutical composition of Claim 23 in a container and instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from a disorder responsive to neurokinin-3 receptor antagonism.

36. The packaged pharmaceutical composition of claim 35, wherein said patient is suffering from anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, obesity, chronic pulmonary obstructive disorder, or pain.

37. A packaged pharmaceutical composition comprising the pharmaceutical composition of Claim 23 in a container and instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from a disorder responsive agonism, inverse agonism or antagonism of the GABA_A receptor.

38. The packaged pharmaceutical composition of claim 37, wherein said patient is suffering from anxiety, depression, a sleep disorder, or cognitive impairment.

39. A compound according to claim 1 wherein in a standard assay of neurokinin-3 receptor binding the compound exhibits an IC_{50} of 1 micromolar or less.

5 40. A compound according to claim 1 wherein in a standard assay of neurokinin-3 receptor binding the compound exhibits an IC_{50} of 100 nanomolar or less.

10 41. compound according to claim 1 wherein in a standard assay of neurokinin-3 receptor binding the compound exhibits an IC_{50} of 10 nanomolar or less.

15 42. A compound according to claim 1 wherein in a standard assay of $GABA_A$ receptor binding the compound exhibits an IC_{50} of 1 micromolar or less.

20 43. A compound according to claim 1 wherein in a standard assay of $GABA_A$ receptor binding the compound exhibits an IC_{50} of 100 nanomolar or less.

25 44. A compound according to claim 1 wherein in a standard assay of $GABA_A$ receptor binding the compound exhibits an IC_{50} of 10 nanomolar or less.

30 45. A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound exhibits a 10-fold greater affinity for the NK-3 receptor in a standard assay of NK-3 receptor binding than for the $GABA_A$ receptor in a standard assay of $GABA_A$ receptor binding.

46. A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound exhibits a 100-fold greater affinity for the NK-3 receptor in a standard assay of NK-3 receptor binding than for the $GABA_A$ receptor in a standard assay of $GABA_A$ receptor binding.

47. A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound exhibits a 1000-fold greater affinity for the NK-3 receptor in a standard assay of NK-3 receptor binding than for the GABA_A receptor in a standard assay of GABA_A receptor binding.

48. A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound exhibits a 10-fold greater affinity for the GABA_A receptor in a standard assay of GABA_A receptor binding than for the NK-3 receptor in a standard assay of NK-3 receptor binding.

49. A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound exhibits a 100-fold greater affinity for the GABA_A receptor in a standard assay of GABA_A receptor binding than for the NK-3 receptor in a standard assay of NK-3 receptor binding.

50. A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound exhibits a 1000-fold greater affinity for the GABA_A receptor in a standard assay of GABA_A receptor binding than for the NK-3 receptor in a standard assay of NK-3 receptor binding.

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C07D413/04 //(C07D487/04,235:00,209:00)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C07D A61K A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	PIERO SAVARINO ET AL.: "Assembled systems (X-azolopyridine)(quinoline). Bases and Salts." JOURNAL OF HETEROCYCLIC CHEMISTRY., vol. 29, - 1992 pages 185-192, XP002144891 HETEROCORPORATION. PROVO., US ISSN: 0022-152X * compound 16 *	1
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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